

STAFF NEWS



Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole

Record Number of Cadets Graduate Officer Academy



*Lt. Janell Love stands at attention during the ceremony. Nearly 400 cadets graduated from the CDCR Correctional Officer Academy in June. That is the largest class so far this year as CDCR moves quickly to fill peace officer vacancies statewide. **Read the story on page 4.***

Photo by Scott Sabicer

Get On the Bus Visits Three Adult Institutions on Fathers Day

During June, the CDCR and the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles worked together to bring children to visit their incarcerated fathers on Father's Day. This is the third year the program was made available to fathers and their children and other family members.

The offenders are housed at three adult male institutions: the California Correctional Institution (CCI) in Tehachapi, the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJDCF) in San Diego, and the

California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo.

The children, who are accompanied by loved ones and guardians, visited as part of the annual Get on the Bus program. This year, four buses with more than 110 children and their guardians traveled from cities in southern California to the two prisons. The fathers had to be on good conduct for one year to earn a visit from their children.

When released from prison, those fathers are less inclined to re-

California Men's Colony Home to "Our House"

By SHIDELER HARPE

Division of Addiction and Recovery Services

Ozell Johnson is not a man you would have welcomed into your home. Or your neighborhood. Much of his life is a study in bad attitudes and worse behavior that included drug addiction, drug dealing, other criminal activities, and the ultimate crime – taking a human life. But not to worry – you won't be meeting Johnson. Since 1984 he has been serving a 17-years-to-life sentence for robbery and murder.



Ozell Johnson

Fast forward to 2007: Johnson now is an inmate at California Men's Colony (CMC) near San Luis Obispo, and he is a different man. His life began to change in 1989 when he was doing time in Folsom State Prison and attended a meeting of Narcotics/Alcohol Anonymous. He began to understand the link between substance abuse and his criminal behavior.

Today, Johnson is one of the organizers, and a mentor, in an in-prison Substance Abuse Program (SAP) unlike any other of the 37 SAPs in 23 of California's 33 state prisons.

How did this happen?

Other SAPs are administered by private contractors who provide program ser-

Governor Appoints Four to Key CDCR Positions

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently made a number of appointments to key positions at CDCR, including the Division of Correctional Health Care Services, Facilities, Plan-



Sec. Tilton congratulates Robin Dezember (r).

ning and Construction, the Office of Audits and Compliance and the Division of Support Services.

Robin Dezember has been appointed as director of the Division of Correctional Health Care Services. Dezember has nearly 15 years of experience in the California corrections system and more than 22 years of experience in state government. Since 2001 he has worked as a private consultant on health care issues. Dezember has served as the principal consultant to the Governor's Corrections Independent Review Panel. Previously, Dezember served as chief deputy director of finance policy for the California Department of Finance from 1997 to 1999.

Deborah Hysen has been ap-

pointed Chief Deputy Secretary of Facilities, Planning and Construction. She currently serves as Chair of the Assembly (AB) 900 Facilities Strike Team and has served as an appointee of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee governing the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine on the Facilities Standards Working Group since 2003. Ms. Hysen's appointment comes at a pivotal time as the CDCR launches AB 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007.

As the Chief Deputy Secretary of Facilities, Planning, and Construction, Ms. Hysen will ensure that the provisions of AB 900 are carried out to construct or renovate prison housing units, prison support buildings and programming space; acquire land, construct, and renovate reentry program facilities; and construct and establish new buildings at facilities under the jurisdiction of CDCR.

Richard Krupp has been appointed Assistant Secretary, Office of Audits and Compliance. He has nearly 35 years of experi-

ence in state government, primarily working in the California corrections system. Mr. Krupp began his career with the Department of Corrections as a correctional officer and has held several positions including Staff Services Manager II in the Research Branch, Chief of Personnel Automa-

tion in the Office of Personnel Management, and Correctional Counselor II. His management of the audits and compliance function will enable the Department to routinely assess its programmatic and operational effectiveness.

Heidi Lackener has been appointed Director, Division of Support



Secretary Tilton congratulates Heidi Lackener (l).

Services. She has held numerous management positions within the Department and most recently served as Associate Warden at Mule Creek State Prison. Her past work experience include facility captain and Correctional Business Manager at Folsom State Prison; Correctional Business Manager at Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Facility; and Staff Services Manager at California State Prison, Solano. Ms. Lackner also held a variety of positions at the CDCR headquarters within Human Resources, Labor Relations and Fiscal Management from 1985-1993.



Richard Krupp (r) is sworn in by Undersecretaries "Bud" Prunty and Stephen Kessler.

Submissions

Staff News publicizes staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov

Folsom Inmates Contribute Thousands to Victim Services

Fried Chicken and Soda Fundraiser Recognizing Crime Victims' Rights Week Nets More Than \$6,800

More than \$6,800 raised by Folsom State Prison inmates was presented in May to local victims' services provider PEACE for Families by officials from the CDCR.

The money was raised by inmates who participate in the Youth Diversion Program through a fried chicken and sodas sale at the prison in conjunction with National Crime Victims' Rights week.

"This fundraiser was a way for inmates to give back and contribute to a worthy cause that helps victims, and is part of a broader effort by CDCR to be a good neighbor to the local community," said Assistant Secretary of the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS) Sandi Menefee. "The fundraiser allowed inmates to voluntarily donate to programs that help victims, and is a way for them to help take some responsibility for the pain that their actions may have caused."

OVSRS Chief Jean Scott, Folsom State Prison Warden Matthew C. Kramer, and staff and inmate team members of the Folsom State Prison Youth Diversion Program were on hand to present the check for



Youth Diversion Program inmates pose with their check.

\$6,840.50 to PEACE for Families at the Folsom State Prison visiting room.

Approximately one-quarter of the Folsom State Prison inmate population participated in the fundraising effort ordering more than 13,500 pieces of chicken and over 3,300 sodas.

PEACE for Families is a private, non-profit, community-based organi-

zation providing comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Placer County. For more information on the organization, visit: <http://www.peaceforfamilies.org/>

The Youth Diversion Program at Folsom State Prison uses staff and inmates to expose at-risk-youth from the community to the realities of prison life. The program goal is to aid in reducing the number of young people involved in criminal behavior by promoting positive alternatives. Young people participating in the program assume the role of an inmate and, as such, are escorted through various areas of the institution. The youth actually experience prison life. The youth interact with carefully screened inmate team members to openly and directly discuss the negative effects of criminal behavior. School districts, probation departments, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and other concerned groups participate in the program. To date, some 2,500 youth have benefited from this program.

Avenal State Prison Pioneers Medical Bus Transport

By JIM HALEY

AA/Public Information Officer,
Avenal State Prison

During May, Avenal State Prison transported 18 inmates to medical appointments — at outside medical facilities — by bus for the first time.

The bus, on loan from California Conservation Center, provided a mobile holding facility while parked at various medical facilities. In some cases, inmates had to wait an hour after taking medications to be seen by medical personnel at their destination. Using the flexibility that the

bus transport provides, inmates took the medication, waited as needed, and then had the procedure performed with a minimum of disruption to other inmate-patients.

Avenal Chief Deputy Warden Nick Dawson drove the bus on the debut trip and expressed his happiness with the flexibility this provides, as well as potential cost-savings by incurring less overtime as this pilot project continue, Dawson said.

The clustering of appointments is

a partnership between the institutions and health care divisions to demonstrate how to make efficiencies work between the security and health care responsibilities of CDCR.

Normally transporting of inmates to medical appointments requires two officers for every one inmate. Avenal State Prison's goal is to provide a high level of security, less overtime costs and ensuring the department's commitment to meet a constitutional level of health care is ensured.

Largest Class of 2007 Graduates CDCR Academy

On June 15, the CDCR graduated this year's largest class of correctional officers at the R. A. McGee Correctional Training Academy in Galt. The correctional officer training is part of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's commitment to increase public safety in the state's prison system.

CDCR Undersecretary Bud Prunty expressed his appreciation to the cadets, "I commend you on your dedication to serve the people of California by working in our prison system. You are among a select few who have successfully passed the rigorous testing to reach this level. Your work is important to the prison reforms being implemented by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger."

The 388 graduates of the program have already been assigned to specific adult correctional institutions where they will begin their careers as correctional officers. Cadets receive 640 hours of instruction at the academy, including classes in leadership

and ethics, crime scene investigation, inmate supervision, emergency operations, first aid, and physical fitness training. Upon graduation from the academy, new correctional officers earn more than \$45,000 per year. Top level correctional officers can earn more than \$73,000 per year.

The department is making progress toward meeting its goal to select and hire correctional officers to fill every established position vacancy, including new court required positions. CDCR has intensified its recruitment efforts to increase the number of correctional officers who are needed throughout the state. CDCR receives approximately 7,500 correctional officer applications per month. Typically, only four percent of the potential candidates pass the

selection process, which includes psychological, academic, background investigation, medical and physical fitness evaluations.

During the last fiscal year, approximately 2,431 cadets have graduated from the academy. CDCR currently has approximately 22,860 correctional officers. It is anticipated that as of July 1 there will be approximately 1,890 correctional officer vacancies.



Cadets file out to their seats before the ceremony begins.

Wasco State Prison Inmates Graduate From Parent Education Program

By TAMMIE A. BERRY

AA/Public Information Officer
Wasco State Prison

In May, Wasco State Prison – Reception Center (WSP-RC) held a graduation ceremony for its Parenting Education Program. The parenting class was arranged by Facility "C&H" Captain Charles Gipson, Steve Jackson, Program Director of Center Point (Substance Abuse Program) and Beverly Faulkner of Friends Outside.

WSP-RC has had other classes in the reception center, all due to Ms. Faulkner's willingness to take general population programming and bring it into the reception center, challenging the status quo. Sixteen reception center inmates graduated, all receiving

a certificate of accomplishment for placement in their central file. The inmates completed 30 hours of interactive instruction, in two hour sessions over fifteen days. Ms. Faulkner stated, "It was a very inter-active class. They were all very willing to participate and learn more about becoming better fathers."

When asked about the program, Gipson stated "By offering inmate programs, such as the Parenting Education Program, along with the inmates' involvement in the Substance Abuse Program, it helps facilitate the department's mission

of rehabilitation. It is interesting to see the individual transformations that occur as the inmates go through this program and the hope that the inmates express, in wanting to be better fathers for their children."



Wasco State Prison inmates display their certificates.

Division of Juvenile Justice *Green Sheet*

DJJ honors Crime Victims in Series of Statewide Events

By **KELLY R. PERDUE**

licensed Clinical Social Worker
DJJ Headquarters

Each year, our nation acknowledges crime victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) did its part to remind parolees and wards of the impact of crime on victims by participating in numerous activities. This year's theme was "Every Victim. Every Time." Wards and parolees do not often see the devastation in the lives of their victims. It is staff's responsibility during the course of rehabilitation to assist them in that process.

Since the mid 1980's the DJJ has emerged as a national leader in victim impact programming. Despite current challenges facing the DJJ, staff continues to find



DJJ Parole Agents participate in Victims' Rights Week.

time to engage wards and parolees in activities and events that demonstrate a restorative justice approach.

In conjunction with the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services-Juvenile Services Unit, each institution and parole office developed, attended and participated in an array of activities this year. Each institution opened the week with a victim/survivor to address the population and set the tone for the week of activities.

Jennifer Hetherton, Supervising Casework Specialist of the I & J Specialized Counseling Program and the Sex Offender Program at the Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility, insists that victim impact programming and restorative justice are an ongoing part of treatment throughout the year.

Hetherton ensured that the wards are involved in numerous projects and activities that emphasize the impact of their actions on the lives of victims and restoring the victim, community, and themselves. Equally important, the wards have engaged in activities of giving back to the community, such as donating no-sew blankets to shelters, and making stepping stones with words of encouragement engraved on them for donation to a victim's garden. In addition, the wards have made and donated hats, bags, and door hangers to the Ronald McDonald House in Redlands.

Some parole offices held fundraisers, such as car washes to raise money to donate to domestic violence shelters, and agencies serving abused children. The Covina/East Los Angeles Parole Office organized an event, which was attended by approximately 15-20 pa-

(Please see Victims, Page 6)

Preston YCF Wards Make Donations to Two Organizations

By **CRAIG WATSON**

AA/Public Information Officer
Preston Youth Correctional Facility

In June, the wards at Preston Youth Correctional Facility made a contribution to two charitable organizations through money raised during fundraisers and from ward trust accounts. \$1,403 was donated to Operation Care of Amador County. Operation Care assists those in need in Amador County and is responsible for running a shelter and safe house for women and children who are escaping domestic abuse. Operation Care also runs Domestic Violence and Sexual As-

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James A. Wieden High School Principal Russ Harris (r), presents a check for Operation Care to Tammie Crabtree (m), while Denise Abel and DJJ ward Armando Mandujano (l) look on.

DJJ YCC Olivas inducted into Stockton Mexican Sports Hall-of-Fame

Youth Correctional Counselor Joe D. Olivas a veteran staff of DJJ for more than 25 years was inducted into the Stockton Mexican Sports Hall of Fame this past spring during a ceremony that honored his role in community support, as well with local youth sports.

The honor is for more than their athletic abilities. Typical inductees serve as role models that continue to give back selflessly to their communities. During the ceremony, Olivas spoke about how he was inspired by people who kept faith in him and how they gave him the motivation to continue working hard to achieve success. Joe mentioned that he was taught a strong work ethic, leadership skills,

and sportsmanship qualities by his parents, excellent coaches and mentors.

Olivas played professional baseball for the San Francisco Giants organization during 1980. Prior to that, Olivas was selected as player of the year at Edison High School and led the area in passing both his Junior and Senior years while in high school. During high school, Olivas also played three years of Varsity Baseball instead of the traditional two years due to his abilities.

Olivas has built a reputation with DJJ these past 25 years for his efforts counseling youth in a therapeutic environment. Olivas currently coaches



Joe Olivas speaks at his induction ceremony.

local teams in his community to pass on his knowledge about the sports world and life lessons. The organization congratulated Joe in his efforts both in the institution and the playing field for his lifetime commitment to sportsmanship, character and most of all -- belief in the power of self actualization.

VICTIMS...(From page five)

rolees and 15 staff and community based organizations. Victim Advocate and Chapter President of Parents of Murdered Children, Agnes Gibboney, spoke of the impact and devastation of her son's murder on her family.

The Watts/Los Angeles Metro Parole Office also had a speaker address parolees. In addition, staff organized a group of parolees to participate in the Victims March held in Riverside.

The Sutter Sex Offender Program at the Southern Youth Reception Center and Clinic worked with the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services-Juvenile Services Unit staff to host motivational speaker and advocate Jerri Elster, an incest and rape survivor, to address the wards in the program. Ms. Elster was very moving in her presentation and de-

livery.

"We were really pleased with her presentation and impact on the offenders," said Michael Farmer, Supervising Casework Specialist. "She immediately connected with the wards and appeared to impact many of them." Some wards appeared skeptical initially, but soon they were immersed in her words.

Elster stated that her message is focused on healing and moving forward. That message is both for the victims and the offenders. After her presentation, a large number of wards offered feedback and thanks to her for her presentation. Overall, this was an amazing experience for all who attended.

The success of this week is essential for the successful rehabilitation of wards and the reduction of crime in our communities.

PRESTON...(From page five)

sault educational seminars and classes. In addition, they educational program on confronting bullying in the elementary school as well. The money was raised through the Cardiac Classic a victim's week fundraiser.

Some \$365 was donated to the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage. The Orphanage is in Vietnam and is administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal. They provide primary and secondary education to children, life skills to ensure the children become self-sufficient, a safe environment and food, shelter, clothing and medical care. Those representing the Orphanage were Board Members Dave Chaix, Pat Keagan, and Mel Potter. Presenting the check were School Principal Russ Harris and ward Billy Garrett.

More than 100 Inmate Students Graduate from Palo Verde College

By **TERRY THORNTON**

Information Officer II
Office of Public and Employee Communication

BLYTHE, CA – The largest number of inmates in the United States ever to earn higher education degrees at one time graduated in early June at Ironwood State Prison and Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. This historic achievement is the result of a unique partnership between Palo Verde College (PVC) in Blythe, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO).

"There is abundant research showing that post-secondary education programs give inmates opportunities and tools needed to successfully re-enter society," said CDCR Secretary James E. Tilton. "Studies have also shown that inmates who participated in correctional education programs were far less likely to return to prison after release. Strategies to reduce recidivism provide enormous fiscal and public safety benefits and are key components to the Governor's recently enacted reforms."

Friends, families, college faculty and staff, corrections administrators and community college guests were on hand to celebrate the hard work and academic achievements of the incarcerated students. Seventy-one Ironwood State Prison (ISP) inmates earned As-

sociate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, and another 15 received vocational certificates. At the neighboring Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), 27 inmates received Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees and 20 inmates earned vocational certificates.

Education administrators note that the distance learning college program at the two prisons has provided advantages to PVC, the community of Blythe, and surrounding areas.

"Our college programs at Ironwood and CVSP not only benefit incarcerated students, but the students in our community as well," PVC Superintendent/President Dr. James Hottois said. "The distance education program has enabled us to offer a broader curriculum and expand course offerings to the students in outlying areas served by the college and to disabled students unable to attend classes on campus," he added.

Nine of the incarcerated students at ISP graduated cum laude (3.5 to 3.699 GPA), eight magna cum laude (3.7 to 3.899 GPA), and two Summa Cum Laude (3.9 to 4.0 GPA). Seven



A family poses with a Chuckawalla inmate graduate.

CVSP students graduated cum laude, two magna cum laude, and one summa cum laude.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Marshall (Mark) Drummond celebrated the hard work and academic achievements of the

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Staff News

The Electronic Edition

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Ironwood State Prison inmate graduates stand at attention.

HOUSE...(From page one)

vices. “Our House,” the SAP at California Men’s Colony, is a program developed after the contract was terminated late in 2006 when the contractor was unable to meet commitments.



George Freitas

Last November several concerned staff, including Corrections Counselor III George Freitas, and a few inmates like Ozell Johnson who had previous experience and believed in the SAP concept, organized the appropriately named “Our House” with the approval and help of the CDCR Division of Addiction and Recovery Services (DARS). The “service provider” now is a group effort by dedicated DARS and CMC staff and inmates, and directed by Freitas.

“Our House,” like the other

SAPs, is based upon the therapeutic community concept which seeks to build and maintain positive, healthy inmate communities inside the prison. The highly structured environment emphasizes self-help and peer support.

CMC has 180 dormitory beds assigned for SAP participants; the men are not isolated from the prison’s general population, but they live together in order to interact, support each other, and strengthen the program. Inmate mentors like Ozell Johnson are available 24/7 to provide guidance, and help participants with questions and personal problems when staff is not available.

Many of the mentors are “lifers,” and while most will spend the rest of their lives behind bars, they are dedicated to helping parolees return successfully to their communities and to

their families.

“Our House” participants join the general population for meals, work assignments, recreation, and educational and vocational classes. But half of every day their schedule also includes SAP activities such as motivational and self-improvement classes, life skills and an Alternative to Violence Program, preparation for parole, literacy classes and 12-Step meetings. Monthly house meetings address community concerns and issues, and plan special events.

“Our House” is a work in progress, but staff and inmates – and DARS – agree that it is progressing very well.

Since signing on for an SAP in 1990 Johnson has worked hard to turn around his life. He has served as a mentor for inmates in two prisons, meanwhile completing programs that

(Please see House, Page 9)

BUS...(From page one)

turn to crime because of the ties they have maintained with their children, according to most industry researchers.

“Every child wants to see, touch and talk with their father, whether they are incarcerated or not,” said Lea Ann Chrones, Director (A), Division of Adult Institutions. “Get on the Bus helps dads and kids stay connected. This benefits these children by lowering the likelihood that their father will return to prison.”

Get on the Bus provides free transportation for children and their caregivers, travel bags for the children, comfort care bags for the caregivers, a photograph of each child with his or her father, and meals for the day. The meals include breakfast, snacks on the bus, lunch at the prison, and dinner on the way home. On the bus trip home, following the visit with the fathers, each child receives a teddy bear with a letter from their father as well as post-event counseling. Children with fathers in prison are usually cared for by relatives, often grandparents, who are often un-

able to make the drive due to distance or expense. The program is funded by donations from churches, schools, and agencies.



Emotions run deep at father/child reunions programs such as this.

COLLEGE..(From page seven)

inmate students. Noting this invaluable higher education partnership, Chancellor Drummond said, "This program is fulfilling the mission of the community colleges – which is to provide quality education that is affordable and accessible to all Californians – including those students who are incarcerated. This program can be replicated if other community college districts choose to do so. But for now, we want to recognize the inmate students whose many hardships did not prevent them from earning their degrees. We appreciate the productive partnerships that Palo Verde College has enjoyed with Ironwood and Chuckawalla Valley State Prisons."

PVC's college project at ISP started in the spring of 2001 and is the first among community colleges to offer a comprehensive post-secondary program of study within prison

walls. Inmates have no access to computers or the Internet, so PVC faculty members videotape their classes. Inmates at both prisons assist by providing tutoring and support for students in study groups.

Supportive services, including textbooks and counseling, are offered to inmates enrolled as full-time students at PVC through Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS). Funded by the State of California since 1969 at all community college campuses, EOPS provides counseling, tutoring, financial assistance, and other services to ensure academic success for eligible low-income and educationally disadvantaged students.

The California Community Colleges is the largest higher educational system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 109 colleges with more

than 2.5 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

ISP houses 4,872 minimum- and medium-custody male inmates. CVSP houses 4,151 medium- and low medium-custody male felons. More than 2,000 people are employed at the two correctional facilities.

HOUSE..(From page eight)

certify him to teach SAP classes, and he has earned General Equivalency and high school diplomas.

"I have become aware that my calling in this life is to give back, to help men make changes in their lives," Johnson said. "Over the past 16 years I have been committed to making a difference in the lives of people whose paths I cross by using my story, and being a living example that the process does work."

"Mr. Freitas and his staff made a commitment to keep the therapeutic community open...that decision gave us the opportunity to develop, and be a part of, something special."

"We thank the Division of Addiction and Recovery Services for supporting our efforts," Johnson said. "For our community to continue to thrive, for us to continue to help men make changes in their lives, to help them become responsible husbands and fathers, we need the assistance that only DARS can provide."

Workers Compensation Case Closure Program Reduces Costs

Implemented in November 2005, the Office of Risk Management's (ORM) Low-Activity Case Closure Program has achieved an increase in case closures of a whopping 24 percent of workers compensation case closures in just one year.

The ORM Case Closure Team traveled to adult and juvenile institutions/facilities reviewing some 3,300 cases that were on their case closure "radar." Nearly half have been closed or in the process of closure, netting an

estimated cost savings of over \$3.9 million in service fees alone. The chart (middle) shows the actual number of case closures over the past five fiscal years.

This represents a huge victory for CDCR, and the work will continue in

order to bring down costs. In the coming months, the team will begin their second go around, visiting and reviewing workers compensation cases in the field. In addition to case reviews, the Case Closure Team plans on providing training and case management tips to further increase CDCR cost savings.

